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## REPORTS FROM THE MEXICAN BORDER.

*Laredo, Tex., December 26, 1899.*—I have the honor to submit the following report for week ended December 23, 1899: Immigrants inspected and allowed entry, 26; immigrants and indigent passengers vaccinated, 8; total number railroad passengers inspected from Mexico for week reported, 471.

Respectfully,

H. J. HAMILTON,  
*Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.*

*Presidio, Tex., December 18, 1899.*—I have just completed 250 miles of inspection along the Rio Grande, said trip being made on horseback, and requiring a week's time.

I find that smallpox still exists all along the river on the Mexican side, but that the American side is getting into pretty fair condition, there being 2 cases at Polvo, 2 at Rindoso, 18 at Pilares, and some 10 cases in the Capote Cañon. The cause of infection in the Capote Cañon can be traced to Pilares. Several Mexicans living in the Capote Cañon went to Pilares to see relatives who were suffering with smallpox at the time; they then returned to their homes in the Cañon and after the required period had elapsed were taken down with smallpox. The people living in the Cañon then visited their sick neighbors, with the natural result, namely, taken down themselves with the disease.

The vaccination done by the United States sanitary guards all along the American side of the river was very efficient, and I have no apprehension of the disease doing any damage among those vaccinated. The cause of the trouble is visiting. People from the other side consider it their highest duty to visit the Mexicans on this side. The length of a visit varies according to circumstances; that is, if the visitor doesn't develop smallpox he stays about a week; when he takes down with the disease, he stays until either death or recovery relieves him. The country is rather excited even yet over the death of United States Sanitary Guard Wallace, and all along the river, while making my tour of inspection, my men and I were closely watched, and, although we traveled very quietly and took obscure trails, our arrival was expected long before we reached the little towns along the river. Wherever we went a crowd was in waiting for us.

Respectfully,

LEA HUME,  
*Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.*

## CIRCULAR REGARDING VACCINATION.

SAN FRANCISCO QUARANTINE STATION,  
*Angel Island, Cal., December 16, 1899.*

GENTLEMEN: I beg to invite your attention to Article II, paragraph 4, page 26, of the United States Quarantine Regulations of April 26, 1894, which is as follows:

"All passengers occupying apartments other than first or second cabin shall be vaccinated prior to entry, unless they can show that they have (had) smallpox or have been successfully vaccinated, or been detained in quarantine for fourteen days."

It has frequently been observed that quite a number of the steerage passengers show no evidence of a successful vaccination, particularly those coming from Japan.

In order to insure a successful vaccination of the steerage, and those of the cabin who have been exposed to the infection of smallpox, I

would suggest that you cause to be issued the following instructions to the surgeons of your vessels:

(1) All the steerage, and those of the cabin who have been exposed to the infection, should be vaccinated at the time of embarkation or as soon thereafter as is practicable.

(2) To revaccinate on the 6th day all those who show no evidence of a successful vaccination.

(3) In order to insure the best results, only glycerinated vaccine virus should be used.

(4) That the crews of the vessels be vaccinated.

Trusting that the above scheme will meet with your approval and it may be practicable to carry it out, I am,

Respectfully,

J. J. KINYOUN,  
*Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S., Quarantine Officer.*

STEAMSHIP COMPANIES AND TRANSPORT SERVICE, *San Francisco, Cal.*

*Smallpox in Washington, D. C.*

WASHINGTON, D. C., *December 28, 1899.*

SIR: I have the honor to report that 1 patient was discharged from the smallpox hospital to-day, cured. No new cases having been discovered, there are, therefore, 5 cases of smallpox, all confined to the hospital.

Respectfully,

H. C. McLEAN,  
*Acting Health Officer.*

*Smallpox in Indian Territory.*

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
*Washington, D. C., December 27, 1899.*

SIR: The Department is in receipt of your communication of the 18th instant, inviting its attention to a copy of a letter inclosed therewith which has been received by the Surgeon-General of the Marine-Hospital Service from the State health officer of Texas, and you request "information as to what steps, if any, are taken by your Department in the Indian Territory to prevent the spread of smallpox."

In reply, you are advised that on the 18th instant the Commissioner of Indian Affairs transmitted to the Department copies of letters from the United States Indian inspector for the Indian Territory, with copies of letters from the Indian agent at Union Agency, Ind. T., to the inspector, and letter of instructions to the medical board of the Choctaw Nation by the principal chief thereof, and recommending that Congress be requested to appropriate the sum of \$50,000 to be disbursed under the direction and personal supervision of the United States Indian inspector for the Indian Territory for the purpose of stamping out smallpox among the white people in the Indian Territory. Said recommendation was approved by the Department, and an item submitted through your Department to be embodied in the urgency deficiency bill making said appropriation.

The Choctaw Nation has appropriated the sum of \$10,000 for the purpose of eradicating said disease from the Indian citizens of said nation.

A copy of said communication from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, together with copies of the letters referred to therein, is inclosed herewith for your information.

Respectfully,

THOS. RYAN,  
*Acting Secretary.*

Hon. SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.